

AGRICULTURAL.

TOPICS OF INTEREST RELATIVE TO FARM AND GARDEN.

Soiling vs. Pasturing

Careful trial has satisfied those who practice soiling that one acre of land, well tilled, will support a cow as long as three acres of pasture and one acre of meadow. A succession of crops must be sown, of course. The first crop to cut in the spring is winter rye, then follow medium clover and orchard grass, timothy and alsike or pea vine clover, or both, oats, or peas and millet, corn and sorghum, the latter sowed very thick to keep the stalks soft, and if to this system of soiling was added that of silage, and the latter used after the green growing crops were frozen up, and with the silage a variety of root crops saved and used, how much more cheaply would we carry our stock through the entire year.—*Colman's Rural World.*

Farming as a Business.

"Farming as a business," says Professor Gulley, in *Home and Farm*, "is not what it has been in the past. It requires much more intelligence and skill to farm successfully now than it did formerly, and for a variety of reasons. Our wants have increased. The luxuries of our fathers have become everyday necessities for our comfort. We feel that we must live better, dress better, do more, work fewer hours, and we require more in the way of mental improvement, accomplishments and the like. This is as it should be. The farmer should have and should enjoy all that is within the reach of the merchant or professional man; he is even entitled to more than the town resident to make up for the isolation of life on the farm.

"The fact that country people do not have the advantages of the town people, that farming at the present time does not hold out such strong inducements to young men as other occupations, not only prevents the town bred boy from becoming a farmer, but it also draws a large proportion of the brightest and smartest boys from the country to the town, and we have as the result a much larger number of the naturally-gifted, shrewd men of the country engaged in manufactures, transportation, trading, etc., than we find farming, and it naturally follows that the smarter men secure the larger share of the proceeds of the industries.

"Another disadvantage that the farmer labors under—the outcome of greater ability possessed by men in other industries—is the fact that improvement in methods of manufacture, trade, transportation and distribution has been very much more rapid than in farming. These industries are growing away from the production of farm crops.

"During the past fifty years the power of one man to turn raw products into manufactured goods and distribute them to consumers, through the introduction of improved machinery and application of scientific discoveries, has increased from five to one hundred or more times. We have made no such advance in growing crops.

"It is true the introduction of large implements, and the binder and header, has increased the capacity of one man tenfold in growing and harvesting wheat, and having machinery to nearly as great an extent in making hay; but we have only increased a man's capacity two or three fold in making corn, while in cotton growing it is probable that, on the average, one man really produces less, or at least no more than he did thirty years ago.

"There is still another factor that is detrimental to the interests of the farmer, and that is the exhaustion of the virgin fertility of the soil. Except in portions of the older settled States, up to the present time farming has been largely of the pioneer order, which means clearing up the land and cropping it in such a way as to produce a crop with the least labor, regardless of the exhaustion and loss of the fertility of the soil, compelling us now to adopt some system of fertilization that is necessarily expensive to make the land produce as much as it did formerly.

Farm and Garden Notes.

If your chickens have the diarrhoea, give them boiled sweet milk.

Rolling upland, with light or gray sub-soil, well drained, is the best for wheat.

Corn cobs make good fuel, and the ashes of corn cobs contain stores of potash.

The assertion is made that potatoes which grow nearest the surface are most subject to rot.

Ducks can live with a bath once a week, but they are aquatic enough to enjoy a dozen a day.

According to Dr. T. H. Hoskins the tomato rot is getting to be about as bad a disease as the potato rot.

Dutch belted cattle are not as large as Holsteins, but are said to rival the Ayrshires in hardiness, being well calculated for rough lands.

Cellars require care and attention to preserve them sweet, pure and healthy. Stagnant air, slops, or decaying vegetables will soon vitiate them.

Prominent apianists advise extracting the honey from partially filled sections

at the end of the season, and keeping the sections for use the next season.

The use of soil on asparagus is confined to keeping down weeds during cutting time. Asparagus is a semi-marine vegetable, but too much salt will injure it.

There is a brisk demand and good prices for feathers, eggs or flesh of ducks and geese, and these fowls are easily raised. Some deem them more profitable than chickens.

When fodder corn is in bloom it contains but thirteen per cent. of solid matter. When the kernels begin to glaze it has twenty-five per cent. Don't cut it too soon, whether for siloing or soiling.

If a silo is built in a hillside, the *Southern Cultivator* deems the following a good way to construct it. Plank up inside with two-inch plank, then a course of tarred paper, then another plank on the paper; all on the inside of the silo.

The *Southern Cultivator* avers that smoke is the great secret in the management of bees. If judiciously applied before a hive is opened and the frames are handled with care, there need not be any difficulty in performing all necessary operations in bee-keeping.

Wood Stews in Siberia.

We have all had our sympathies aroused by statements that these people (the natives of Northern Siberia) are often during famines compelled to resort to wood for food, writes Lieutenant William H. Schuetz. Now the fact is that careless observers have simply been imposed upon, or they have jumped at conclusions without caring or perhaps being able to make inquiries. Wood in a certain form is a most common and constant article of diet on the Lena River, all along the north coast and in the immediate neighborhood of Yakutsk, in fact wherever the Yakut resides. North of Verchoyansk, except in a few sheltered valleys, it may be said there is no other wood than the larch, and for miles south of the tree limit absolutely no other. The natives eat it because they like it. Even when fish are plentiful it usually forms part of the evening meal, as the many cleanly stripped larch logs near every hut testify. They know by experience that the fact of their eating wood arouses the sympathies of strangers, and shrewdly use it to excite pity and to obtain a gift of tea and tobacco. They scrape off the thick layers immediately under the bark of a log, and chopping it fine mix it with snow. It is then boiled in a kettle. Sometimes a little fish roe is mixed with it, and further south cow's milk or butter. I have often seen it eaten without anything additional, though as in the present instance there was apparently enough other food on hand.

The Hair Growing After Death.

Sitting in the office of the Comptroller of the Treasury the other day, writes a Washington correspondent to the *Omaha Herald*, were two gentlemen waiting for the preparation of some document which the bureau was just about completing. On the wall opposite hung a fine oil portrait of Salmon P. Chase, the first Comptroller, showing him as a handsome, florid-faced man, without beard and with head partially bald.

"That doesn't look much as he did a year ago," said one of them, noting the handsome portrait.

"A year ago; why, he has been dead these ten years or more, hasn't he?"

"Yes, eighteen of them. Yet I saw him only a year ago with full beard and a full head of hair, very different from the picture you see before us."

"What do you mean?"

"Simply this. I was present when his remains were taken from Oak View Cemetery for transmission to Cincinnati a year ago. Although seventeen years had elapsed the remains were still in an almost perfect state. The features were entirely distinguishable to those who knew him in life. The clothing was in a perfect state of preservation. The principle changes were that the face was dark, and instead of being smooth, as was his custom in life, it was covered with a full growth of beard, two inches or so in length, and mixed with gray. The head, which you see was bald in life, was covered with a full suit of hair, partly gray."

Weighing Moving Cars.

In order to find out whether cars loaded with live stock can be successfully weighed while in motion, the Western Railway Weighing Association a few days ago made a test at the stock yards with ten loaded cars. The cars were run over the scales running three miles an hour and the weights taken. The stock was then unloaded and weighed on platform scales. The difference in the weight of the ten car loads was found to be only 590 pounds, the actual weight being that much less than the weight taken when the cars were moving. This test it is claimed establishes the feasibility of the plan of weighing cars successfully while in motion.—*Chicago Tribune.*

Bloodhound Ranch.

George Oglesby is growing bloodhounds for sale on Tenth and Clay streets. He has already the finest kennel of that breed in the United States. Increasing frequency of acts of violence and multiplied instances of stage and train robberies cause a demand for the class of animals named, which encourages Mr. Oglesby to hope that if the noble work shall proceed he may find his dog ranch a better thing than an African ostrich farm. Mr. Oglesby is certain that if the Six-shooter law is repealed occasion for the use of his acute-nosed dogs will become so frequent that he will have to open on a much larger scale.—*Waco (Texas) Echo.*

Nearly 200 kinds of gold filling are now made for teeth.

HOUSEHOLD AFFAIRS.

Adulterated Flour.

Adulteration of flour by means of potato flour may be detected by means of acids. Take a spoonful and pour upon it a little nitric acid; if the flour be of wheat, it will be changed to an orange yellow; if wholly of potato flour, the color would not be altered, but the flour formed into a tenacious jelly; if, therefore, the flour be adulterated with potato flour, it will not be difficult to decide. Again, take a spoonful of the flour and pour upon it a little muriatic acid; if the flour be of pure wheat it will be changed to a deep violet color; but if potato flour be mixed in it, it will then have an odor like that of rushes.—*Scientific American.*

Recipes.

COTTAGE PUDDING.—One cupful sugar, two eggs, two cupfuls cream, one pint flour, one and one-half teaspoonfuls baking powder. Beat the eggs and sugar together; add cream, flour, with the powder sifted in, and pinch of salt, mix into smooth batter as for cup cake; put into long, narrow or oval buttered mold, bake in hot oven over thirty minutes.

GINGER POUND CAKE.—Six cups of flour, two cups each of butter, brown sugar and molasses, eight eggs, two tablespoonfuls each of cinnamon, ginger and soda and two nutmegs; dissolve the soda in a cup of sour milk. Line the pans with greased paper and put a brown paper over the top to prevent the crust forming too quickly. One-half of this recipe can be used with good results.

SPICED OR PICKLED APPLES.—To six pounds of the peeled and cored apples, take four pounds sugar, one quart of good cider-vinegar and a tablespoonful each of ground cloves and cinnamon tied loosely in a bag and steeped in the vinegar a little while in advance. Make a syrup of the sugar, vinegar and spices, cook in it the apples until they are soft, but not broken at all, then dip them out into bottles, cover closely and keep them hot while the syrup boils down quite rich; then fill up the bottles with the syrup and seal. Many use more vinegar than here suggested, but it makes a more acid preparation than this recipe, and might hence be chosen in preference by lovers of sour fruits.

BLACK BEAN SOUP.—This popular soup is made in various ways. The following is very good, and requires less work than some others: Take one pound round beef, near the shank, half a pound salt pork, and one quart of black beans. Chop the beef and pork, and boil them with the beans. When partly done, add a grated carrot and an onion. Boil several hours, or until the beans are ready to fall to pieces; then strain through a soup sieve; return to the kettle, and add salt and pepper to taste, a couple hard-boiled eggs in slices, with a little sliced lemon; or, omitting these, use "Force Meat Balls" in their place. For making these last, chop cold beef, veal or lamb, very fine; add sufficient flour to make it stick together in balls about the size of a walnut. Roll these in beaten egg, then in cracker dust, and fry until brown. Add the balls to the soup just before it is served upon the table.

Household Hints.

Cover jellies with sugar when set away.

Do not make jelly in damp or cloudy weather.

Never put away a jar of fruit partly filled, as it will be almost sure to spoil.

Canned tomatoes should be kept where it is dark and dry. Light injures them.

Dried wormwood and tansy sprinkled about where black ants congregate will clear out the pests.

In canning tomatoes those fresh from the vines are better than those picked and ripened in the sun.

Save the strength of the housewife and servants by having all kitchen utensils as light in weight as possible.

A new and palatable way to cook egg-plant is to cut it in dice, boil tender in salted water, and serve in white sauce on toast.

Whole cloves are now used to exterminate the merciless and industrious moth. It is said they are more effectual as a destroying agent than either tobacco, camphor, or cedar shavings.

The Signs of Drunkenness.

The symptoms of drunkenness, be it observed, are all paralytic, and are all due to loss of nervous power and of voluntary control. The flushing of the face shows the paralysis of the small blood vessels; soon the sliphshod utterance shows the want of voluntary control over some of the muscles of articulation; the double vision indicates the loss of accommodating power in the eyes, and the staggering gait shows that the loss of control has extended to the larger muscles; lastly, the drunkard falls prostrate in a condition so closely resembling apoplexy that the most experienced occasionally fail rightly to distinguish the one from the other. If the intemperate use of alcohol be persisted in there soon results a degeneration of all the tissues of the body. The nervous tissues are, perhaps, the first to suffer, and the shaking hand and tottering gait are infallibly followed by a similar tottering of the intellectual and moral faculties. The stomach resents the constant introduction into it of ardent spirits, and soon refuses properly to digest food. The liver and kidneys give out in a similar way, and the impairment of their functions causes terrible dropsy. The heart gets fatty and weak, the lungs lose their fresh elasticity and soon there is not a tissue in the body which has not, in one way or another, succumbed to the ill-treatment to which it has been subjected.—*The Family Physician.*

A Man Spent Thirty Years in Bed.

Benjamin C. Cortelyou, who lives just outside of New Brunswick, N. J., is a wonderful example of human endurance. Some thirty years ago, while employed on a frame building, Mr. Cortelyou lost his balance and fell to the ground. It was discovered that his back was broken and that he received internal injuries. He was conveyed to his home and put in bed, and has ever since been unable to leave it. For twenty-six years he has reposed on his right side, from which position he has been unable to move. He is in constant agony, and his attendants rarely touch him, so acute is the pain. For six years he has been unable to sit up in bed, and just before he was compelled to abandon the effort his cries could be heard a long way from the house. Hundreds of physicians have visited the man, but not one has been able to afford him any relief. He has had over 200 attacks of erysipelas. Three thousand ounces of laudanum and 200 boxes of pills have been given him to quiet the pain, but all to no avail.

His wife died of a broken heart several years ago, and two children followed shortly afterward. Two daughters, who were sent out West twenty-eight years ago, have since married, but neither has seen the father since that time. Mr. Cortelyou has just turned sixty years, but looks twenty years older. His face and head are covered with long gray hair, while his general appearance is of a person in great suffering and pain.—*New York Sun.*

An Important Arrest.

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